

# Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management

## Annual Report 2018



*Woman in Makueni, Kenya, explaining her innovation to a group of ARD practitioners*

*(Photo: Mona Dhamankar)*

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## List of acronyms

ACDEP	Association of Church-based Development Projects
ADCR	Association for Rural Community Development
AFRIDIETS-LAB	“Co-creating sustainable and healthy <b>African diets</b> in multi-actor <b>labs</b> ”
AGC	A Growing Culture
ARD	agricultural research and development
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
CA	collective action
CCRP	Collaborative Crop Research Program
CEDAC	Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture
CIRAD	<i>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement</i>
CP	Country Platform
CSO	civil society organisation
DOLI	Development Outcomes of Local Innovation
ESA	Eastern & Southern Africa
ESAPP	Eastern & Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAW	fall armyworm
FaReNe	Farmer-led Research Networks
Fontragro	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
GALID	Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation
IFID	International Farmer Innovation Day
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
IPW	International Partners Workshop
IST	International Support Team
KIT	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Dutch acronym)
LFS	Library for Food Sovereignty
LISF	Local Innovation Support Facility/Fund
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MSP	multistakeholder platform
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NGO	nongovernmental organisation
NRM	natural resource management
NSC	National Steering Committee
Nuffic	Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (Dutch acronym)
PID	participatory innovation development
POG	PROLINNOVA Oversight Group
PRODII	Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme (Spanish acronym)
PROFEIS	Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel
PROLINNOVA	Promoting local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and NRM

Proli-FaNS	Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security
RAEBIA	Resilient Agriculture and Economy through Biodiversity in Action
RWH	rainwater harvesting
SA	South Africa
SAHAS	Group of Helping Hands (Nepali acronym)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SRC	Subregional Coordinator
WCA	West & Central Africa
WN	World Neighbors

## INTRODUCTION

2018 could be considered a year in which the PROLINNOVA community of practice made steady progress in moving towards its goals as laid out in the strategy for 2016–20. The process of regionalisation continued through the “**P**romoting local innovation for **F**ood and **N**utrition **S**ecurity” (Proli-FaNS) project. The two Subregional Coordinators (SRCs) in Africa were able to increase their support to the Country Platforms (CPs) in the subregions. The progress in Asia and Latin America was slower, mainly due to the lack of funded projects to carry out the activities.

Meanwhile, in early 2018, it became clear that the idea of moving the international secretariat to a host organisation in the Global South would have to be abandoned. The earmarked host organisation informed that PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG) that this was a challenge they could not take on, as there were no core funds to continue the work. The POG then pursued Plan B and supported the process of regionalisation with the intention of having functional regional secretariats in the different regions, starting with Africa.

This year, too, the CPs that had access to some funding through projects were more active than the others. However, it was good to see how those CPs that did not have project funding were finding ways to integrate local innovation and participatory innovation development (PID) into their regular work. Some CPs managed to revitalise their country partnerships and expand their partner base.

In 2018, for the first time since the network inception meeting in 2004, the network could not find adequate funds to hold its annual International Partners Workshop (IPW). However, the CPs in Africa came together in Nairobi, Kenya, in May 2018 for the first ever African Regional Partners Workshop, which was held back to back with the Proli-FaNS partners workshop. As regionalisation progressed, it was agreed that the network partners would try to hold an IPW and regional partners meetings in alternating years, as the face-to-face encounters are highly valued as a space for learning and sharing.

This report covers the main activities and achievements of the PROLINNOVA network in the period January–December 2018. It provides an overview of the CPs in Section 1 and summarises the key network-wide activities in Section 2.

## 1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS

### 1.1 BOLIVIA

PRODII (Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme, Spanish acronym), one of the partners of PROLINNOVA–Bolivia, rented a small liaison office in Cochabamba, which has provided space for the partners to meet face to face. At one of the network meetings, the partners showed interest in Local Innovation Support Facilities/Funds (LISFs). PRODII financed translation of the PROLINNOVA material on LISFs from English into Spanish. World Neighbors (WN) was requested to make a project proposal including LISFs; the proposal has been completed but implementation is yet to begin. Lack of funds to embark on CP activities has been a bottleneck for 2018; the network is working actively on fund acquisition.

### 1.2 BURKINA FASO

In the course of 2018, the CP restructured its governance structure by setting up a new National Steering Committee (NSC) and a technical coordination team, both of which held meetings regularly. The CP continued to implement activities of the Proli-FaNS and Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe) projects. Local Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) were established at Gomponsom and Gourcy to manage the local-level activities of the Proli-FaNS project. Five farmer-led processes of joint research continued throughout 2018. Documentation of 20 farmer innovations was completed.

To wrap up the FaReNe project, several CP partners took part in a writeshop for capturing the experiences and lessons from the project. Three “fact sheets” were developed on innovative farmer networks, PID and LISFs. Two scientific papers based on the work in Gonni and Gompom were developed and are being published. Thirty-two members of innovative farmer networks, including 10 women, received training in community governance and advocacy.

### 1.3 CAMBODIA

PROLINNOVA–Cambodia members, especially CEDAC (Cambodian Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture) as host organisation of the CP, continued promoting farmer-led innovation development in its development projects. The key activities included farmer-led experimentation on various farming techniques in growing rice and vegetables and raising animals, which helped farmers reduce production costs, increase productivity and adapt to the current change in climate. As part of this process, field-day events on crop planting and harvesting were conducted in rural villages, where local farmers could join up to try out some of the new farming techniques and also assess the experimental results. This led to wider dissemination in the communities. In 2018, five farmers experimented on organic fertiliser application on spring onion by comparing the effect of commercial organic fertiliser and their self-made compost tea. The plots with the compost tea had higher yields.

CEDAC was also active in institutional innovations such as collective marketing of agricultural products and facilitation of interactions with input suppliers and local microfinance institutes to give farmers better prices for their agricultural products, lower prices of inputs and lower interest rate on loans for investing in farming. This led to increased food security and income for the local farmers.

CEDAC hosted three students from the University of Virginia, USA, namely, Isabella Dillon, Anna Shaw and Hang Trinh, who came to learn about farmer-led innovations that lead to increased and sustainable productivity for Cambodian farmers. The students spent one month learning about soil conditions, climate-adaptive and resilient agriculture, on-farm experiments, and how farmer organisations improve production, access markets and save money for future investment. The

students also had an exciting time in the field by living in villages and learning farming techniques from the host farmers.

CEDAC continues to conduct case studies on local knowledge and farmers' good practices and produces articles and video documents for sharing on social media and websites through CEDAC's Facebook page. It changed from printing the *Farmer Magazine* to online publication in accordance with the current trend in information and communication technology development. The articles attracted a high level of readership and the page received about 10,000 Likes and Follows.

The CP partners did not meet in 2018, on account of the changes in CEDAC management and staff turnover. Ms Chanthang Tong took over as CP coordinator from Sam Vitou, who left CEDAC. She will need time to get into the role of CP coordinator and revive the work with the CP partners. However, the partners continue their activities such as documenting local knowledge and innovation and facilitating farmer-led joint experiments.

## 1.4 CAMEROON

The NSC was expanded from six to seven members. This change in the membership of the NSC was in response to the need to integrate innovative farmers and their local organisations into the governance process of the CP. To this end, a farmer member of the Joint Initiative Group of Beekeepers in Nkométou was invited to join the NSC.

PROLINNOVA–Cameroon continued to implement the Proli-FaNS project during 2018. The process of identifying local innovations in Nkométou and Lékié areas enabled the local MSP to validate eight innovations, including five by women. Three farmer-led processes of joint research took place during the year: on a young woman's innovation on feeding snails with red *macabo* leaves, on an innovation by a husband and wife using *kanwa* (natron) to reduce the bitter taste of cocoa cake and on an man's innovation on local multiplication of bee colonies. The woman involved in the snail-feeding experiment received an LISF grant to continue her experimentation process, as she relies heavily on this unconventional form of micro-livestock farming as her main source of income and livelihood. Documentation of these PID experiences is underway. Meanwhile, farmer innovators regularly shared their PID results on various occasions, such as during the innovation validation and characterisation sessions with the local MSP and during the International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID), which is held every year on 29 November.

The implementation of PID has strengthened the collaboration of the CP with the universities in Cameroon. In fact, during this year, PROLINNOVA–Cameroon was able to coordinate the PID on innovation related to the reduction of the bitterness of cocoa cake based on *kanwa* as part of a collaborative partnership with the Universities of Maroua and Yaoundé. The CP continued its collaboration with the Obala Agricultural Institute and the Agropastoral Family Farm Competitiveness Enhancement Program (ACEFA), as part of the local MSP set up in Nkométou Region.

## 1.5 ETHIOPIA

PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia continued implementing the Proli-FaNS project in 2018. The CP coordinator Hailu Araya left in early 2018 and was replaced in May by Ms Beza Kifle, who attended the Proli-FaNS partners meeting and the regional African meeting of PROLINNOVA CPs in that month in Nairobi. Soon after returning, she visited both Proli-FaNS action-learning sites in Ethiopia to become acquainted with the on-site partners and the ongoing activities. In June, she organised a training workshop on local innovation, food and nutrition security, together with Atalay Yirgem, who manages Alem Birhan Self Help Community Based Development Association (referred to as Alem Birhan), the local nongovernmental organisation (NGO) that coordinates the Proli-FaNS work in Enebe Sar Midir in Amhara Region. This was followed by a PID training in October for the partners at this site. Also in



October, a PID training workshop was also held in Axum, the second Proli-FaNS action-learning site, together with Yohannes GebreMichael from Addis Ababa University. University students from both action-learning sites were taken on to document around 20 local innovations at each site.

In February, Yohannes GebreMichael was invited to the USA by David Edmonds of the University of Virginia to share PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia experiences with students and staff of the Global Development Studies programme and the African Urbanism Lab. This visit was connected to the internships that PROLINNOVA CPs offer to students of the university. PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia has been hosting students since 2015 and hosted two interns in 2018.

In November, the NSC and the Technical Advisory Group met to discuss the status of the Proli-FaNS project, the ongoing PID cases and completion of the project's deliverables in 2019.

## 1.6 GHANA

PROLINNOVA–Ghana continued to implement the Proli-FaNS project in two districts, Yendi and Bongo. ACDEP (Association of Church-based Development Projects), as host organisation of the project, was involved in coordination and financial management of the project and liaison with the donor, Misereor/EZE (Catholic Central Agency for Development Aid). By the end of 2018, a total of 38 innovations (25 by women/groups and 13 by men) in food and nutrition security were selected and documented for sharing and possible improvement. Sharing information on these innovations through field days, exchange visits, radio broadcasts and two video documentaries on soap-making and sheabutter production led to about 700 farmers adapting or adopting the innovations to improve their livelihoods. Ten outstanding women innovators received awards from the Ministry of Agriculture at the annual National Farmers' Days held at district level. Farmer-led joint research on three innovations was started in 2018 and will be concluded in 2019.

In April, ACDEP, the Animal Research Institute, the Veterinary Services and the Pong-Tamale Veterinary Laboratory collaborated with the University of Basel in Switzerland to make a survey in the Upper-East and Northern Regions of Ghana to explore the possibility of a joint research project to scientifically validate and standardise key and promising ethnoveterinary innovations of small-scale farmers. Successfully validated innovations would be mainstreamed into the animal healthcare system in northern Ghana using a stakeholder participatory approach to improve health and productivity of ruminants, poultry and pigs. The outcomes and recommendations of the exploratory survey enabled ACDEP to submit a proposal to Misereor to fund a 3-year project in northern Ghana.

The ACDEP Finance Manager, James Japiong, visited PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia in July to give support for improving the financial management and reporting for the Proli-FaNS project in Ethiopia. Joe Nchor (CP coordinator) and Dominic Avea (NGO partner), attended the annual Proli-FaNS partners meeting and African PROLINNOVA Partners meeting in May in Nairobi, where they shared experiences with other CPs. ACDEP also helped in planning and coordinating these meetings in Nairobi. At the end of October, Franklin Avorny of the PROLINNOVA–Ghana technical support team took part in a training in Kenya on gender analysis in local innovation development conducted by a two-person team from the International Support Team (IST) / Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). On his return to Ghana, Franklin held a two-day training for 12 field-based partners in the two Proli-FaNS action-learning sites in order to improve their skills in integrating gender into their work.

The seven-member NSC held its annual meeting in August, which seven members attended, and adopted steps to strengthen the CP to more widely promote and institutionalise the LI/PID approach among key agricultural research, development and extension stakeholders in the country. The Chair of the NSC, Naaminong Karbo, agreed to represent the CP in the West & Central Africa PROLINNOVA subregional task force team that is supporting the regionalisation process of PROLINNOVA in Africa.

## 1.7 KENYA

PROLINNOVA–Kenya continued to implement the Proli-FaNS project throughout 2018. Eleven local innovations (7 in Kisumu and 4 in Makueni County) were further improved through farmer-led joint experimentation processes. The innovations were: hanging garden (Kisumu), plastic chicken brooder (Kisumu), two-in-one energy-saving stove (Kisumu), modified cassava pits (Kisumu), improved fish smoker (Kisumu), sack garden irrigation kit (Kisumu), local poultry medicine *Ajujo manyasi* (Kisumu), organic tobacco pesticide (Makueni), organic fruit fly trap (Makueni), local chicken incubator (Makueni) and poultry disease control using *Aloe vera* and croton seeds (Makueni). In addition, five new innovations were identified and documented in the two counties. These included an egg viability detector called an *Ohobore* (Kisumu); use of dried onion leaves to fight Striga (Kisumu); heating a brooder using a jerry can filled with hot water (Makueni); more nutritious flatbreads by mixing wheat flour with mashed pumpkins, green gram, sweet potato and other local vegetables (Makueni); and a fireless cooker and improved traditional hotpot (Makueni).

Two events for broader sharing among farmers were organised in the two counties. In February, a farmer innovation fair on the theme “Creating opportunities through farmer-led innovations” was held in Makueni. The fair attracted 192 participants and seven organisations, both governmental and nongovernmental, drawn from both Makueni and Kisumu Counties. In November, PROLINNOVA–Kenya celebrated IFID in Kisumu on the theme “Promoting indigenous technical knowledge in farmer-led research for enhanced livelihoods”. A farmer innovation fair was organised in which 20 innovators showcased their innovations. More than 300 people attended the event, mainly from Kisumu and Makueni Counties. The County Minister for Agriculture, Food, Livestock and Fisheries graced the occasion and handed over certificates of recognition to 24 farmer innovators (13 men and 11 women). The fair was not only a space to give recognition to farmer innovators and allow them to share their stories with a wider audience; it also encouraged other farmers to come forward with their local innovations.

PROLINNOVA–Kenya hosted the Proli-FaNS annual partners meeting and the PROLINNOVA–Africa Regional Partners Workshop in May, as well as the workshop on Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development (GALID) on 29 October – 1 November, both in Nairobi.

## 1.8 MALI

During this year, the security situation deteriorated in Mali, but this did not fundamentally affect the overall operation of the CP; the planned activities were conducted under reasonably safe conditions. The CP continued to implement the PROFEIS (Promoting Farmer Experimentation and Innovation in the Sahel) and FaReNe projects. This included several farmer-led joint experiments and studies in Ségou that focused on weed control in cereal crops such as sorghum and reducing the mortality of guinea fowls. The process of experimentation and improvement of the solar clay incubator continued, based on feedback from the field. One aspect of experimentation was to increase the heat produced during the cold and rainy season to keep the eggs and chicks warm all night.

Poultry farmers from the villages of Djéla, Nayo, Kanouala and KoriKori visited each other and shared learning from these PID processes. Twenty participants, including two women, took part in these visits. Two local radio stations in Ségou and two other radio stations in Mopti broadcast information on the farmers’ innovations.

The CP Coordinator took part in the annual workshop of the community of practice of the Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP) of McKnight Foundation in West Africa held in February in Niger. She wrote articles on experiences in PID, LISF and farmer networking during this workshop.

Three members of the CP joined the PROLINNOVA Regional Partners Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, on 20–25 May. In October, an exchange visit was organised between agricultural innovators involved in the PROFEIS programme in Mali and those benefiting from the support of the NGO Diobass in Burkina Faso. A member of the PROFEIS–Mali technical coordination team took part in the Fifth Misereor Partners’ Forum on 12–13 November in Mopti Region.

Training on the dissemination of local innovations was held on 20–21 July in Bla and Tominian Communes (Ségou Region), bringing together a total of 20 participants. On 10–19 September, another training course was held in Sola and Kouri, in the Sikasso Region, with 80 participants, including 20 women.

Ten farmers’ innovations were widely disseminated by four local radio stations between mid-June and mid-July, with the aim of sharing the information with a wider audience. A national fair on local people’s innovations took place in Ségou on 28–30 December. The results of four joint experiments were disseminated through the newsletter of IED-Afrique, with the support of Bara Gueye, who is the Executive Director of this NGO based in Senegal.

## **1.9 MOZAMBIQUE**

In February, Brigid Letty from South Africa made a backstopping visit to PROLINNOVA–Mozambique and held meetings with five representatives of different partner institutions/organisations including ADCR (Association for Rural Community Development), CIC Bata, UNAC, KULIMA, CTO and two independent members, namely Romuald Rutazihana and Domingos Tsucane. The meeting was held in Maputo and contributed to the reinstatement of PROLINNOVA–Mozambique, which the POG had declared inactive in 2016.

Like in the previous 2–3 years, ADCR went on with diffusion and replication of some promising farmer innovations through exchange visits among farmers’ associations in Gaza Province. Priority was given to those local innovations aimed at increasing agricultural production and productivity and protection of natural resources.

However, the activity plan that was developed by the CP at the end of 2017 could not be implemented in its entirety. This was partially due to the changes of the membership – Romuald Rutazihana left his position as Chair of the NSC, while Gilde Fafitine, the CP coordinator, was transferred to Chigubo District, about 360 km from Xai-Xai, the capital of Gaza Province. Lack of funds was another reason. However, some partners such as KULIMA have managed to maintain and implement some activities related to supporting local initiatives in the communities where the NGO operates, mainly in Gaza Province.

## **1.10 NEPAL**

In November, PROLINNOVA–Nepal partners decided that the NGO called Group of Helping Hands (SAHAS) Nepal should take over the secretariat role from the Natural History Museum of Tribhuvan University. Dharma Dangol then handed the CP coordination over to Surendra Kumar Shrestha, Executive Director of SAHAS Nepal. Surendra shared the concept and objectives of the PROLINNOVA network with the Board members and Management Team of SAHAS Nepal.

SAHAS Nepal is a well-established NGO that has been involved in rural social development for over 20 years. However, as it had not been affiliated to PROLINNOVA–Nepal until recently, its staff members were not familiar with the concepts and approaches promoted by the network. Hence, Chesha Wettasinha of the IST together with SAHAS Nepal drew up a proposal to Nuffic (Netherlands Organisation for Internationalisation of Education) to develop the SAHAS staff capacity in promoting LI/PID. However, the proposal was not approved and the training did not take place as planned.

On 29 November, Dharma Dangol partnered with Center for Nepal Environment and Education Development to organise a seminar to celebrate IFID. Several PROLINNOVA–Nepal partners, including SAHAS, took part in this seminar on the theme of "Linking innovations into museum education" at the premises of Natural History Museum in Kathmandu. Around 25 people from organisations such as Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Tribhuvan University, schools, colleges, and national and international NGOs took part. Three farmer innovators from Kathmandu and Chitwan shared their experiences and learning during the celebration. Some innovative farmers participating in the seminar were willing to share their experiences with other organisations including schools/university to promote farmers' newly developed technologies.

### 1.11 PERU

Several organisations of innovative farmers, NGOs, private companies, public institutions and academia working in the Apurímac and Ayacucho Regions formed the PROLINNOVA–Peru platform to work together on rainwater harvesting (RWH). In February, the POG formally recognised the PROLINNOVA–Peru platform. The member organisations directly involved in the RWH work are: Villa Hermosa Farmers Association, Lamlama Farmers Association, Centre for Agricultural Development and World Neighbors (WN).

The farmers decided to re-introduce ancestral practices of RWH – using artisanal dams or "*quochas*" in Quechua – to reduce the social and economic impact of water scarcity. Thus, marginalised communities in the Andes are preserving and sustaining rainwater, using an ancient technique developed by the Incas in the Andes more than 10,000 years ago, and are trying to incorporate it into public policies. The PROLINNOVA–Peru partners have been meeting with regional and central government authorities in order to get them more involved in RWH so that this approach is incorporated into Peruvian policies as "green infrastructure" using local materials, which is more cost effective than "grey infrastructure" using concrete and steel.

The PROLINNOVA CPs in the Andes (in Peru and Bolivia) are jointly seeking funding to scale out technical and organisational innovations in the region. One opportunity followed up was in response to the 2018 call of Fontagro (Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology). RWH was central to this proposal. Although it was not possible in the end to obtain funding through Fontagro, the CPs continue to look for funding opportunities for joint PROLINNOVA work in the Andes.

In 2018, the two CPs decided that the coordinator of PROLINNOVA–Peru, Lionel Vigil, would take the seat for the Andes Region in the POG for a term of two years.

### 1.12 PHILIPPINES

In 2018, IIRR (International Institute of Rural Reconstruction) in the Philippines, the host organisation of PROLINNOVA–Philippines, initiated discussions with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of Calabarzon (Region 4A) with the intention of bringing them into the CP. To initiate this partnership, IIRR and ATI collaborated in organising a conference on the role of local extension services in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The conference focused on transforming climate risks to agriculture and fisheries into opportunities in the Calabarzon region through an extension strategy that would strengthen climate resilience in the region. The conference targeted extension workers of local governments, farmers and fishers in the region. Municipal agriculturists from the five provinces and staff of the provincial offices of agriculture and the state universities were also invited to the event. During the preparatory phase of the conference, PROLINNOVA and the concept of recognising and supporting innovation were presented to ATI, who acknowledged the opportunities that this approach presents in relation to its farmer-scientist programme.

IIRR Philippines and KIT developed two proposals to provide training to agricultural researchers of Calabarzon Region in LI/PID for submission to Nuffic, but both attempts were unsuccessful.

Although interactions between CP partners took place, there was no funding to have a meeting of the partners in 2018. The efforts to raise funds for an Asian Innovation Fair were not rewarded, and the event was postponed to 2019.

Two students from the University of Virginia were hosted by IIRR for a period of two months.

### **1.13 SENEGAL**

The revitalised CP held two meetings during 2018. The partners discussed about PROFEIS and about the search for funds to continue the work. Preparations for hosting the IPW in 2019 were also discussed. The Mampuya Centre in Toubab Dialaw near the new international airport for Dakar was selected as the venue. The Senegalese CP partners were in close contact with IST members and the Proli-FaNS coordinator in PROLINNOVA–Ghana in making arrangements for the IPW. The CP made several attempts to acquire funding for its work. One of these was a proposal to the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for a West African information hub on agroecology. This was approved, and the work will be carried out by Agrecol Afrique and two other NGOs in the region.

### **1.14 SOUTH AFRICA**

2018 was a quiet year for PROLINNOVA–South Africa (SA), although the CP was represented in a number of fora. Brigid Letty, currently the focal point for the SA platform, attended the regional meeting of African CPs in May in Nairobi, Kenya, which was held together with the annual meeting of the Proli-FaNS project partners. PROLINNOVA–SA is represented on the Eastern and Southern Africa PROLINNOVA Platform (ESAPP). In addition, Brigid was nominated as chairperson of the ESAPP, and will be looking at ways to strengthen the operation of the subregional and regional (African) platforms.

Two students from the University of Virginia’s Global Development Program, Hope Neuling and Jessica Anderson, joined the Institute of Natural Resources (the host organisation of PROLINNOVA–SA) for a 6-week period in June–July. This internship arrangement is likely to continue, as it was an effective way for the students to gain experience of the SA context. They worked on a number of different rural agricultural projects.

Brigid provided backstopping support to the PROLINNOVA team in Mozambique. She travelled to Maputo in February and met with the members of the NSC to look at mechanisms to revive the CP. As a result of the efforts that followed, the group in Mozambique was reinstated as a functioning CP.

Brigid worked with various organisations in Europe and Africa to develop a concept note that was submitted to the European Union in response to their Horizon 2020 call for submissions. The proposal “Co-creating sustainable and healthy African diets in multi-actor labs” (AFRIDIETS-LAB) intends to look at how more diverse production systems can lead to healthier diets. Other PROLINNOVA CPs involved include those in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania; Brigid coordinated their participation in developing the proposal. The collaborators had a face-to-face meeting in September, which Brigid was able to attend thanks to the generosity of the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart, Germany), which led the development of the proposal. She also attended the St Ulrich Group meeting in early September in the Black Forest, which allowed for some discussion about PID and other participatory approaches that participants are using.

### **1.15 SUDAN**

With the guidance of Amanuel Assefa, the SRC for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), PROLINNOVA–Sudan was revitalised in 2018. The CP now consists of 22 partner organisations, from the

governmental, nongovernmental and private sectors. An NSC of eight members and a core team of three members for day-to-day running of activities were set up. Despite the economic and political instability in the country, the CP partners met several times during the year to discuss ways of promoting local innovation through their own organisations in different parts of the country. In September, with support from Practical Action Sudan and own contributions of members, training in local innovation and PID was given to 22 participants (70% women). The CP would like to develop an Arabic version of the PID training guide. The catalogue of local innovations in Sudan printed in 2008 was given to the participants in the training.

The IFID was celebrated on 11–12 December with an exhibition of innovators. The event, which was funded by the Kanar Communication Company and the Agriculture Bank of Sudan, was well attended by people from the agricultural research and development (ARD) community in Khartoum.

Chris Macoloo, POG co-chair from Africa, made a South–South backstopping visit to PROLINNOVA–Sudan in December. He met the Director General and several other senior officials in the National Centre for Research, which now hosts the CP in Sudan. He made a short oral presentation at the IFID innovation fair and attended the NSC meeting on 12 December. He attended a meeting of CP members on 13 December and also visited several member organisations and a nearby farm.

A project proposal on traditional knowledge, local innovation and adaptation to climate change has been submitted to the Climate Risk Finance project. If approved, it would enable PROLINNOVA–Sudan to implement field-based activities in six states of the country.

### 1.16 TANZANIA

The CP has not been very active for over four years because of a lack of external funding to support PROLINNOVA–Tanzania coordination and activities. Some PROLINNOVA-related activities were carried out individually by CP partners in the country but were not communicated and shared with other partners and the coordinator. One such activity was the multi-stakeholder lesson-learning exercise to inform their joint efforts to get better at partnership and innovation, which was organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR), the CGIAR and its Independent Science and Partnership Council, held in Bagamoyo in February. The CP was represented at this meeting by the PROLINNOVA–Tanzania Technical Coordinator and the Program Officer in PELUM–Tanzania.

A quick search for farmer innovations to control the fall armyworm (FAW) was conducted in November–December. The search aimed at knowing the ongoing initiatives in the current PROLINNOVA partners' institutions and universities and farmers' self-initiated initiatives to combat the FAW. At the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology in Arusha, a PhD student is working with a Farmer Research Network to design and evaluate FAW management strategies, which takes a farmer-led approach to joint research, together with scientists, in order to find context-specific strategies to deal with the FAW. In the 2018/2019 cropping season, some self-supported guided farmer experimentation was encouraged in Mbozi, Songwe Region, and in Mbulu, Manyara Region. They are currently comparing their local products with a recommended pesticide (the "Cutter").

The CP invested energy in fund acquisition and was involved in developing and submitting four proposals to different donors. Two of these attempts were not successful and two are still under consideration.

### 1.17 TIMOR LESTE

In 2017, the PROLINNOVA CP in Timor Leste was established with initial funding from the Government of Timor Leste through the local NGO RAEBIA (Resilient Agriculture and Economy through



Biodiversity in Action), the host organisation for the CP. Xisto Martins from RAEBIA, who had attended the IPW in Ghana in May 2017, organised meetings of PROLINNOVA–Timor Leste’s NSC and National Working Group or Platform to inform them about the outcomes of the IPW and to discuss the future programme of the CP in Timor Leste. He shared PROLINNOVA publications from different CPs related to documentation of local innovations and encouraged CP member organisations to start documenting local innovations related to agriculture and natural resource management through their ongoing programmes.

The funding from the government did not continue in 2018, but RAEBIA still managed to generate its own resources for holding regular quarterly meetings of the CP members and also for exploring new sources of funding, e.g. by approaching the Give to Asia Foundation, IIRR, The Asia Foundation and PLAN International, while still trying to engage with the (new) Government of Timor Leste.

In order to ensure the sustainability of PROLINNOVA programming in Timor Leste, RAEBIA saw the need to restructure the CP at the level of the NSC and the National Working Group. Therefore, at the end of October, with support from the Give to Asia Foundation and IIRR through the regional consultation meeting in Bali for community-based organisations (CBOs) working in disaster risk reduction, RAEBIA shared the PROLINNOVA programme and mission of the Timor Leste CP to CBOs from Timor Leste that were involved in this meeting. The CP was reorganised and functioned in 2018 with an NSC consisting of five members and a National Working Group of 11 organisations. RAEBIA continues to be the host of the CP.

### 1.18 UGANDA

During 2018, the CP was largely constrained in terms of funding to effectively deliver on its aspirations. Despite this, the CP Secretariat at Environmental Alert ensured that the CP remained visible and active among the members, key stakeholders and (potential) funding partners. This was achieved through facilitating and supporting networking activities among members for information sharing and exchange, largely through online interactions and participation in activities led by CP members.

Furthermore, greater focus and effort were invested in resource mobilisation and fundraising, with support from members of the POG and the IST to advance development of the CP. Also several strategic partners, such as HORIZONT 3000, PELUM–Uganda and Makerere University’s School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences, were identified and are being pursued for more structured collaboration.

CP partners were active in policy dialogue through several activities. Environmental Alert took part in the national dialogue for review of the draft National Organic Agriculture Policy 2018, alongside other agroecological actors in Uganda. The dialogue was organised by PELUM–Uganda in collaboration with the National Organic Agricultural Organization of Uganda, the Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF). Of particular interest was for the policy to integrate local innovation and indigenous knowledge into the objective, policy statement and strategies. Members of the PROLINNOVA–Uganda CP, through coordination by PELUM–Uganda, also took part in the annual joint sector review for the agriculture sector for MAAIF, in which the CP Secretariat presented a keynote address on behalf of Ugandan civil society organisations (CSOs).

The PROLINNOVA–Uganda CP Secretariat participated in the inception meeting for the *Sustainable Transition to Entrepreneurial Production in Agriculture through Upgrading* project held in Nairobi and Kampala on 6–14 December. This involved the project implementation partners – Leibniz

Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany; Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya; National Environment Trust Fund, Kenya; Environmental Alert, Uganda; and the National Agricultural Research Organisation, Uganda – plus Advisory Board members: Solidaridad, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, OXFAM and the Kenya Bureau of Standards. This is a 3-year project focusing on the banana and mango value chains in Uganda and Kenya, respectively. In Uganda, project interventions on raising awareness, information exchange and targeted policy dialogue through multistakeholder participation are to be implemented through the PROLINNOVA–Uganda CP.

Unfortunately, project implementation has stalled in Uganda largely because of delayed fund disbursement as a result of changes in leadership and roles within the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

Verrah Nyakato, programme staff at Agency for Integrated Rural Development – a member of PROLINNOVA–Uganda – benefited from a training on *“Effective adaptation, financing and innovative approaches to achieve long-term ambitions,”* which was organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment and the International Institute for Environment and Development on 24–25 October.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Water and Environment is in the process of developing the water and environment sector capacity development plan. As part of the process, they were interested in knowing the CSOs and networks operating in the sector. The names of the CP members were therefore submitted for the Ministry’s information and consideration to benefit from its capacity-building initiatives. As a follow-up on this, the PROLINNOVA–Uganda CP Secretariat took part in the stakeholders’ meeting organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment to review the capacity-building initiatives in the sector.



## 2. NETWORK-WIDE ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 INITIATIVES COMPLETED, ONGOING AND INITIATED IN 2018

#### *Study on Development Outcomes of Local Innovation (DOLI)*

The research coordinator of the International Development Innovation Network, based at the D-Lab in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who was responsible for the overall report for the DOLI project based on an analysis the findings of the three cases from Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam, did not deliver the report in 2017, despite many reminders. By early 2018, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), which had co-financed the study in Vietnam on the condition that they would have access to the final overall DOLI report, gave her an ultimatum. Finally, by September, when no report was forthcoming, SDC took the decision to close the project and withhold the payment of the final instalment to KIT, which was involved on behalf of the PROLINNOVA network. It is unfortunate that the project did not provide the expected outcomes for shared learning on the impacts of participatory approaches to agricultural development. However, the two cases from Sri Lanka and Vietnam, for which the IST at KIT was responsible, provided valuable insights, especially related to the community-level impacts and benefits of a participatory approach to agricultural research and development, which underpins PROLINNOVA's approach. These cases can be found at: <https://www.prolinnova.net/publications/publications#2016>

A key lesson drawn from our involvement in the DOLI project was to screen carefully any organisations (and the individuals representing them) that wish to partner with PROLINNOVA, even if it is a well-reputed university like MIT. Another lesson was to ensure that all final deliverables in co-financing contracts, as was the case with SDC, are within PROLINNOVA's purview and control. In the case of the DOLI project, the co-financing contract was between PROLINNOVA/KIT and SDC, but we had no control over the delivery of the final report, which was a deliverable of MIT.

#### *Farmer-led Research Networks (FaReNe)*

The FaReNe project is a joint project of PROLINNOVA partners in Burkina Faso and Mali with financial support from the McKnight Foundation and technical support from KIT, host of the PROLINNOVA international secretariat. It looks at how best to organise and use farmer-led innovation approaches, such as PID, LISFs and farmer networking, and how these can contribute to agroecological intensification. Approaching the end of the current funding cycle, key members of the partner organisations from the two countries – NGO staff, researchers and farmer organisation representatives – met for a writeshop to document their three years of experiences, share and analyse these together, and work towards well-written papers.

Hosted by ADAF-Gallè, host of the CP in Mali, the writeshop took place in Bamako from 30 October to 2 November with facilitation support by Geneviève Audet-Belanger and Laurens van Veldhuizen from KIT. The participants developed three papers per country, each paper covering one of the three main components of FaReNe: PID, LISF and farmer networking. All six papers were compiled in the publication, “*Le projet FaReNe et l’approche participative : les expériences du Mali et du Burkina Faso*” ([https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic\\_pages/ferene/farene\\_bfmali.pdf](https://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/ferene/farene_bfmali.pdf))

#### *Promoting local innovation in Food and Nutrition Security (Prolif-FaNS)*

In 2018, the five CPs involved in the Prolif-FaNS project continued implementation of their activities. Their individual activities are reported in the CP section above. In May 2018, the project held their annual face-to-face meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, back-to-back with the African regional partners meeting. During this two-day meeting, the partners reviewed progress of implementation, identified challenges and developed strategies to mitigate them. They also shared experiences of supporting

farmer-led joint research based on local innovation related to food and nutrition security and learned from each other. They planned for the final year of project implementation and brainstormed on the contours of a follow-on project to continue the work started under Proli-FaNS.

More information on this meeting can be found at:

[http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic\\_pages/food\\_nutri\\_sec/african\\_cps\\_meeting-nairobi\\_may\\_2018\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.prolinnova.net/sites/default/files/documents/thematic_pages/food_nutri_sec/african_cps_meeting-nairobi_may_2018_final_report.pdf)

### ***Partnership with A Growing Culture (AGC)***

The partnership with AGC continued in 2018. Loren Cardeli from AGC and Ruth Nabagalla from PELUM–Uganda (partner in PROLINNOVA–Uganda) participated at the Africa regional meeting of PROLINNOVA partners in Kenya in May. They made a brief presentation of the Library for Food Sovereignty (LFS), which is a digital space for communities to exchange, build upon and celebrate the stories of the world’s innovative farmers. As the LFS is to be piloted in East Africa, Loren requested the PROLINNOVA CPs in East Africa to support ARC in uploading the stories of farmer innovators onto the digital platform. PELUM–Uganda will be responsible for digital content management and will be the focal point for liaison with regional partners and inquiries related to the LFS.

On the request of several participants at the meeting, as a result of the lengthy discussion of Intellectual Property Rights related to local innovations, Loren shared a document on “sharing incentives” that AGC had worked on, through the PROLINNOVA Yahooogroup.

AGC has also been exploring various means of finding funds to do collaborative projects with PROLINNOVA in Africa and Latin America. Unfortunately, none of these attempts in 2018 gained success by the end of the year.

### ***Student internships – University of Virginia***

Several students from the Global Development Program of the University of Virginia undertook short internships in PROLINNOVA CPs for the fifth consecutive year. This included two (one woman and one man) in Ethiopia, three women in Senegal, two women in South Africa, two women in Cambodia and one woman in the Philippines. Of the total of 10 students, 9 were female.

Yohannes Gebremichael from Addis Ababa University – a partner in PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia – was invited by David Edmunds, the Track Director of the Global Development Studies Program, to the University of Virginia in February 2018. Yohannes attended several sessions with the students and shared his experiences with indigenous knowledge and local innovation in action research using the example of the Awra Amba community in Gondar. He was involved in several discussions with the staff and students on rural/urban issues related to food, technology and land tenure.

### ***Gender Analysis for Local Innovation Development (GALID)***

In 2017, the IST at KIT secured funding from FAO to develop guidelines for GALID. These guidelines need to be tested in the field and revised. In 2018, the IST submitted a proposal to FAO requesting support in testing the guidelines, doing the fieldwork in Kenya. This proposal was approved and an initial workshop was held in Nairobi to introduce the guidelines for integrating gender issues into PID activities to a group of ARD practitioners involved in the Proli-FaNS project. Chesha Wettasinha from the IST together with Mona Dhamankar from KIT conducted the workshop. Frank Avorny from PROLINNOVA–Ghana was sponsored to participate in the workshop through Proli-FaNS funding. The participants from the two field sites (Makueni and Kisumu) had diverse experiences: some had already been trained in PID, while others were new to the approach. It therefore became necessary to deal with the basics of local innovation and PID before going into gender aspects – all in just four days (including a field visit). At the end of the workshop, each participant developed a small post-

workshop assignment on integrating gender into his or her own work. The participants were expected to implement these assignments over several months. Vincent Mariadho (PROLINNOVA–Kenya coordinator) was responsible for local coordination and for monitoring the progress of participants. The trainers will return to Kenya in 2019 and visit both field areas and facilitate reflection sessions with the participants and gather feedback for revision of the guidelines.

### ***Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain)***

For several years, PROLINNOVA has been an Associate Partner in the Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (AgTrain) joint doctoral programme supported by the European Commission. In 2018, Ann Waters-Bayer from the IST continued as member of the thesis committee for research by Aboubakar Iyabano on *“The role of farmer organisations in promoting sustainable agriculture: case studies from Burkina Faso”*, together with Wageningen University and Research and CIRAD (*Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement* / French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and the University of Montpellier. The committee is advising Aboubakar and monitoring his progress. He carried out further fieldwork in Burkina Faso in 2018 and is expected to complete his dissertation in 2019.

## **2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE AND MAINSTREAMING**

Policy dialogue and mainstreaming at national and subnational level are reported mainly under the headings of the different CPs. Activities at regional/international level are briefly described here.

### ***Events / conferences***

#### ***International Farmer Innovation Day (IFID)***

This was celebrated in 2018 by the CPs in Cameroon, Kenya, Nepal and Sudan and is reported on in Section 1 of this report.

#### ***GFAR / World Rural Forum Collective Action and International Decade of Family Farming***

On behalf of the international network, Djibril Thiam from PROLINNOVA–Senegal attended a World Rural Forum (WRF) meeting in February in Bilbao, Spain, to discuss the proposed Collective Action (CA) on farmer participatory research to be conducted under the umbrella of the GFAR. A small committee was formed to finalise the CA document – with four persons including Djibril for the PROLINNOVA network. Action is to be taken at three levels – global, regional and local – covering four components: funds for family farming; farmer-led innovation; advocacy; and collaboration/synergy. A National Committee (NC) for Family Farming is (being) set up in various countries. In Senegal, an NC of four persons (from research, university, PROLINNOVA as CSO, and FO) has been identified.

#### ***International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers***

This international symposium organised by FAO was held in Rome on 21–23 November. In the panel on “Putting Family Farmers at the Centre”, Ann Waters-Bayer from the IST stressed the importance of facilitating innovation processes not only for but also with and by family farmers, including pastoralists. In the originally printed summary of the symposium made by the Symposium Chair Shadrack Moephuli (CEO, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa), the top two recommendations were to “promote farmer-led innovation” and to “strengthen the capacity of family farmers to innovate”. This symposium brought the concept of farmer-led innovation up to the highest international level of governmental and intergovernmental institutions concerned with agricultural and food systems.

## 2.3 GOVERNANCE AND NETWORK FUNCTIONING

### *Proli-FaNS partner meeting and Africa Regional PROLINNOVA Partners Workshop 2018*

As part of the regionalisation of PROLINNOVA outlined in the network's 2016–20 strategy, the focus in 2018 was on strengthening the subregional and regional networks. On 22–23 May, the five African CPs that are involved in the Proli-FaNS project held their annual sharing-and-learning meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The programme for these two days was organised by Joe Nchor, Proli-FaNS coordinator based at ACDEP in northern Ghana.

A third day (24 May) was devoted to sharing about experiences with building up two subregional PROLINNOVA networks (in West & Central Africa and in Eastern & Southern Africa) and planning how to work toward a PROLINNOVA–Africa network. This one-day meeting was organised by the two subregional coordinators: Georges Djohy and Amanuel Assefa. Additional funding from Misereor allowed the participation of representatives also from other African CPs.

The report on the three days of meetings can be found [here](#).

### *PROLINNOVA Oversight Group (POG)*

The POG held two meetings during 2018. The first virtual meeting through Skype was held in February and the second, face-to-face, was in tandem with the Proli-FaNS annual partners meeting and regional meeting of PROLINNOVA CPs in Africa in May in Nairobi, Kenya. Two new POG members – (Ms) Elske van de Fliert and Joe Ouku – were welcomed during the POG meeting in February. Elske was elected as an independent member of the POG, while Joe holds the seat of the farmer organisation representative.

Also in May, the CPs in Peru and Bolivia named Lionel Vigil of Peru as Andes representative in the POG. He is the Regional Director of WN for Latin America and the Caribbean, the current host of the CP in Peru.

More information on the POG and its members can be found [here](#).

### *Country Platform backstopping*

Apart from the North–South and South–South backstopping provided for through the Proli-FaNS project, all other visits to CPs were arranged around other (non-PROLINNOVA-related) work of backstoppers in a country, by adding on a couple of days for visits to PROLINNOVA partners in that country. The main purpose of the visits of the SRCs were to get to know all the partners in the CPs and to build closer bonds with them for collaboration in the future, as well as to facilitate discussion about improving governance of the CPs.

IST members, SRCs, the Proli-FaNS project coordinator and peers from within the PROLINNOVA network made the following backstopping visits:

<b>Month</b>	<b>CP visited</b>	<b>Backstoppers</b>
<i>February</i>	<i>Mozambique</i>	<i>Brigid Letty</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Ann Waters-Bayer and Chesha Wettasinha (IPW)</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Kenya</i>	<i>Chesha Wettasinha</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Senegal</i>	<i>Ann Waters-Bayer</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Georges Djohy</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Sudan</i>	<i>Chris Macoloo</i>
<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Amanuel Assefa (as the SRC is based in Ethiopia)</i>

George Djohy's participation in a workshop in Ethiopia funded by the Volkswagen Foundation made it possible for a meeting between the two SRCs in November in Addis Ababa to discuss progress within the subregional platforms. They also made a joint visit to the action-learning site in Axum.

IST members in KIT held Skype or Zoom meetings every 3–4 months with the Proli-FaNS project coordinator and, less frequently, with the CP partners implementing the FaReNe and Proli-FaNS projects.

### **Monitoring and evaluation of the network**

Unfortunately, IIRR could not continue facilitating the e-evaluations after 2017. The POG discussed this matter and decided to include a short self-assessment as part of the annual reporting by CPs. This was incorporated into CP reporting in 2018. The following is a summary extracted from the CP reports:

<b>CP</b>	<b>Self-assessment of network functioning</b>
Burkina Faso	<p>The CP made a significant step forward in achieving the objectives set for the year. The level of achievement of goals and objectives is estimated at 60%. The governance of the CP is good (60%), but the consultation among local partners is often limited, because of the small staff and the busy agenda of the member structures of the CP. The CP secretariat works well and is dynamic (60%). However, it is confronted with the slowness of reaction from members, which does not always facilitate diligent compilation and distribution of information. Communication between and among country partners is very good (80%) and relationships with other PROLINNOVA CPs, SRC, IST and POG are good (60%), though they need to be further strengthened.</p> <p>Achievements in terms of capacity building were limited (40%), as actions in the field did not receive sufficient external funding. The CP did not mobilise a lot of funds during this year; however, it participated in finalising a proposal for the second phase of FaReNe. It plans to establish a mechanism for pooling internal funds by member structures and exploring opportunities to submit joint proposals.</p>
Cambodia	<p>A meeting of CP partners in 2018 could not be organised because of the changes in CEDAC management and staff turnover. Chantheng Tong is the new CP coordinator and she will need time to pick up on coordination with the partners. However, the CP partners continue their activities such as documenting local knowledge and innovation and facilitating farmer-led joint experiments.</p>
Cameroon	<p>The CP completed most of the activities planned for 2018. The NSC kept oversight of project implementation, budgets and expenditure. The local MSP in Nkométou held four meetings: three for the validation of previously identified innovations and one as a statutory meeting. The CP secretariat with limited resources ensured coordination of the Proli-FaNS project as well as communication among CP partners. This communication could be deemed excellent because members of the national platform and those of the local MSP work together in innovation validation and PID implementation processes.</p> <p>The CP participated in the African partners meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, in May. Communications, mostly by emails, are regular between the CP coordinator and the SRC. Subregional coordination has reduced the intensity of direct interactions with the IST and POG. Capacity building is an ongoing activity. Each innovation validation session was preceded by an explanatory session on local innovation and PID concepts.</p>

Ethiopia	<p>The CP has been implementing the Proli-FaNS project but has not been able to fully achieve the project's objectives. The local innovations and PID processes have not been disseminated widely and the number of farmers adapting these is small. The five PID cases from the learning sites were not finalised. Women's innovations from each learning site were not documented, disseminated and shared with other farmers; neither were women innovators recognised and rewarded from relevant government and other institutions. Governance of the CP is weak and communication between the CP partners and the NSC has not taken place, as the people concerned have not participated in relevant meetings and have not responded to emails.</p>
Ghana	<p>Overall, the CP has endeavoured to reach its goals and objectives, especially through the implementation of the Proli-FaNS project. However, the CP needs to make more efforts in terms of resource mobilisation and networking.</p> <p>The CP has a functional NSC that has endeavoured to meet regularly (on a quarterly basis). The NSC has supported the coordination of the CP and the implementation of its activities. The CP has established LSCs in the sub-counties where it is operating. The LSCs have had regular meetings and their deliberations were crucial for the successful operation of PK's activities. The meetings coupled with good communications have strengthened the partnership. The Secretariat is functional with a full-time National CP Coordinator, who is supported by the host organisation (WN) and the NSC.</p> <p>The CP has had good working relationship with other CPs, the IST and the POG. For instance, working with other CPs (Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa), it was involved in developing a multi-CP proposal for the AFRIDIETS-Lab project. In addition, it hosted the annual African CPs meeting that further strengthened the relationships with the IST, POG and other CPs in Africa.</p> <p>The CP has continued to undertake capacity-building sessions, especially on local innovation and PID at the local level, through integrating capacity-building sessions within the various other activities and meetings. In addition, the training workshop on gender mainstreaming in farmer-led research facilitated by Chesha Wettasinha from the IST and her colleague Mona from KIT was very timely, especially for those partners implementing the Proli-FaNS project. The workshop helped to integrate gender aspects into the project's activities.</p>
Ghana	<p>The CP has advanced its goal and objective under PROLINNOVA by facilitating and promoting local innovation and PID, building capacities and influencing the research and development approach of local researchers and development agents of the CP Working Group and MSP. The capacities and interest of farmers, women and extension agents in Proli-FaNS project areas in appreciating and applying the PID approach to farming and livelihood activities has increased significantly. There is more networking and joint learning among local ARD stakeholders through the establishment and use of local MSPs in promoting local innovation and PID.</p> <p>The CP has an experienced coordinator who is supported by a motivated NSC, which meets twice in a year and provides technical and policy advice on project implementation as well as strategic development and sustenance of the CP. The CP has a functional secretariat within the host NGO (ACDEP), which coordinates the country network and field activities of the Proli-FaNS project. There is improved and increased communication, sharing and learning among NSC members, CP partners and technical support team members through regular emails, meetings and sharing of reports and information from the international PROLINNOVA network. More regular and frequent involvement of NSC and</p>



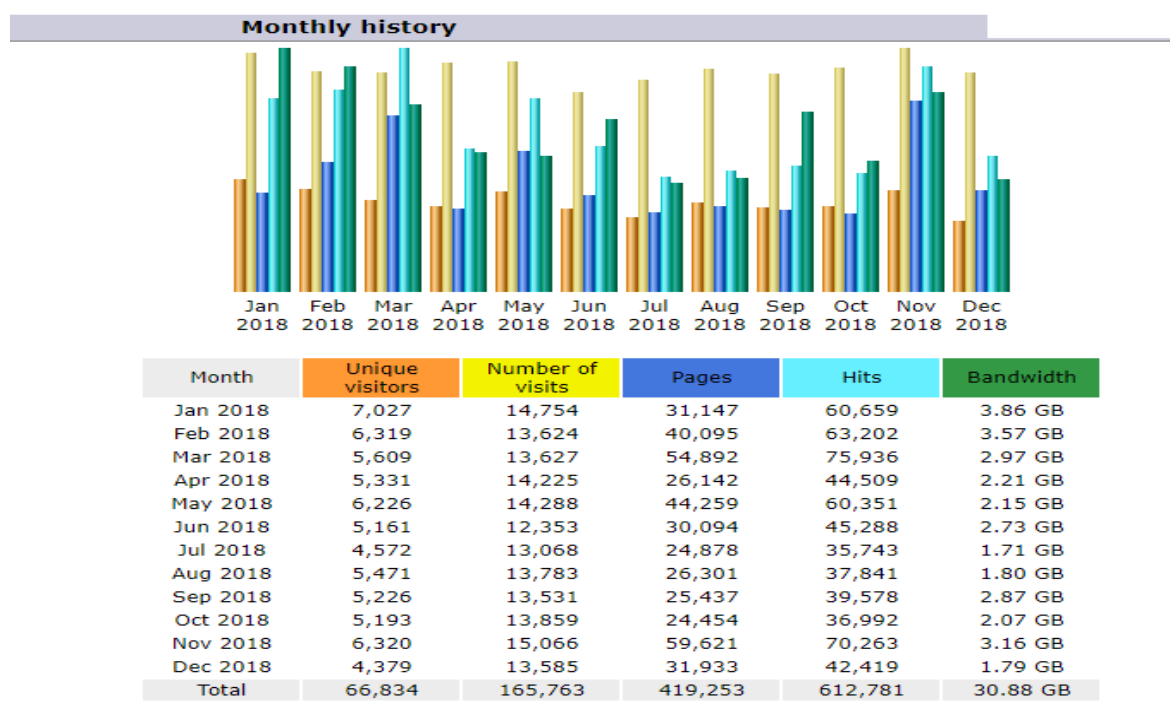
	<p>technical team members in facilitating, monitoring, training of farmer innovators and local events has greatly improved capacities, interest and motivation in the local innovation and PID approach.</p> <p>PROLINNOVA–Ghana has remained a strong and reliable CP within the PROLINNOVA network. By hosting the Proli-FaNS project, the CP has established and maintained a very strong and regular technical and networking relationship with the other CPs in Africa, the two SRCs and the IST and POG through project activities and organising the annual IPW/project partners meetings. PROLINNOVA–Ghana, through its host (ACDEP) and three key partners, has written and submitted a proposal to Misereor for a 3-year project on ethnoveterinary medicine. It has also collaborated with the IST, POG and SRC and coordinated preparation and submission of a proposal to Misereor for a follow-on project to Proli-FaNS.</p>
Mali	<p>Most of the planned activities for the year were completed, except for a few that relate to community rights. Significant results were recorded in the implementation of activities, despite the rather difficult security context in northern and central Mali. The recognition of local knowledge by policymakers and the development of proposals by academics seems to indicate institutionalisation of PID. The income-generating activities supported by LISFs and the community organisations managing the funds are factors that have contributed to increased incomes and stability for sustainable development. The objectives of the CP have been achieved because of the good functioning of its various bodies and the excellent partnership between the different structures, including the Association for the Development of Production and Training Activities (ADAF Gallè), the Association of Professional Farmer Organisations, the Institute of Rural Economy and the National Directorate of Agriculture. This partnership has led to successful implementation of activities in the individual and community poultry-farming sector, which contribute to increasing incomes and promoting household food security.</p> <p>In terms of governance, the NSC held its annual meeting in February, with the participation of 19 members, including one woman. Another meeting of local partners was also held in February with the participation of 23 people, including five women. The technical team carried out its tasks diligently and prepared activity reports, which were regularly revised and adopted by all the CP partners. Semi-annual financial audits were done under the supervision of ADAF Gallè.</p> <p>Project activities were planned at monthly meetings and communication with partners was done primarily by phone and email. The CP has a good relationship with its counterpart in Burkina Faso, particularly in the context of the FaReNe project. It also benefited from the support of the SRC in preparing the proposal for the second phase of FaReNe. PROFEIS–Mali’s interactions with anglophone PROLINNOVA CPs, the IST and the POG were limited during the year. Three PID training workshops were held in 2018 involving 60 people, including 20 women, which helped to strengthen the capacities of university staff.</p>
Philippines	<p>The country network has not been really active in 2012 and no meetings were held. However, there were several bilateral interactions among CP partners such as between IIRR and ATI and between IIRR and the Regional Field Office of the Department of Agriculture for Region 4A. In terms of fundraising, the CP coordinator and the international secretariat at KIT submitted proposals for PID training, twice in 2018, under the Nuffic/Orange Knowledge Programme’s Tailor-Made Training call, but neither proposal was approved.</p>

Sudan	<p>The CP, which had been inactive for three years, was able to re-establish itself well. It is in the process of proposing a membership application form to classify the membership type. A CP secretariat is also being proposed. Communication between the NSC members, CP members and the CP coordinator is quite strong. A core group consisting of the CP coordinator (Mawahib), the chairperson (Mabrouk) and an NSC member (Ibnouf) has been set up to manage and supervise the CP's activities. Additionally, a documentation team of five members has been formed and consists of NCR staff members who are already working in the Documentation and Information Department. The CP coordinator has established good communication with the SRC and the POG.</p>
Tanzania	<p>The fundraising actions that were agreed in the key actors' meeting in October 2017, as was indicated in the 2017 report, were undertaken as planned. However, none of these attempts at fundraising have been successful.</p> <p>The CP partners honour the agreed governance structure. The lack of funds has strained the NSC's joint planning and decision-making meetings. However, the three key persons (NSC chair, administrative coordination at host organisation and CP technical coordinator) liaised when necessary to take appropriate decisions. PELUM–Tanzania handles the administrative aspects of the CP, while responsibility for content matters lies with the CP technical coordinator and/or in collaboration with technical contact persons of the appropriate partner organisations, overseen by the NSC chairperson.</p> <p>There is an average level of communication within the CP, e.g. communication between technical teams, particularly in co-development of concept notes/pre-proposals and encouraging PID processes in the ongoing work of CP partners, and communication between the technical coordinator and the administrative coordination and chairperson of NSC. Direct financial support of PID activities through a funded project for capacity building and networking would be an incentive to strengthen communication within the CP. In general, during 2018, PROLINNOVA–Tanzania had cordial relationship, though yet to be synergistic with most of the CPs and had formal good relationship with the SRC. The relations with IST and POG members throughout 2018 were cordial and supportive. The PROLINNOVA partners should aim at complementary and synergistic relationships for a common course at CP, subregional and international levels, which would increase chances for fundraising and impacts.</p>

### ***Website and social media management***

Ann Waters-Bayer and Annie Secretario (IIRR) continued to handle the coordination and posting of content to the PROLINNOVA website. The general web statistics for 2018 showed a significant increase in the usage of the PROLINNOVA website, which indicates that there is increasing interest in the network and its approach.





**Unique visitors** (number of distinct individuals requesting pages from the website in a given period regardless of how often they visit): an average of **5,569** monthly unique visitors and a total of **66,834** unique visitors were recorded. **Number of visits** (number of times a site is visited regardless of the number of unique visitors who make up the sessions): an average of **13,813** visits per month and a total of **165,763** numbers of visits were recorded for the year. **Pages**: An average of **34,937** pages per month and a total of **419,253** pages were visited. **Hits**: An average of **51,065** hits per month and a total **612,781** hits were made in 2018.

The PROLINNOVA Yahooogroup remained the main mechanism for communication within the entire network. By the end of 2018, it included 715 addresses, and 109 messages were shared via the list in 2018. Most other communication within the network was through specific e-lists and emails associated with projects, proposals or other initiatives of smaller groups within the network. Communication within the two subregions of Africa increased, with the SRCs having regular contact with the CP partners and other ARD stakeholders in their subregions.

### **Fundraising and networking**

Other fundraising initiatives (e.g. Proli-FaNS) are mentioned elsewhere in the report.

### **Following the PROLINNOVA strategy 2016–20: southernisation and regionalisation**

The process of regionalisation of the network in Africa continued throughout 2018 as a component of the Proli-FaNS project. The two SRCs who were recruited in 2017 were actively involved in supporting the CPs in their own subregions. According to Georges Djohy, SRC for West & Central Africa (WCA), the subregional platform is slowly taking shape. Communication among the CPs has increased through his interventions using email, Skype and Whatsapp. Several attempts have been made to acquire multi-CP projects that would allow for more interaction and collaboration among the CPs in WCA. The CPs are keen on holding another event like the West African Farmer Innovation Fair and are looking for ways to do this. Georges provided technical support to the CPs on PID implementation, M&E, documentation and reporting. Due to his efforts, many of the PROLINNOVA documents have been translated into French for the benefit of the francophone CPs in WCA.

Amanuel Assefa, SRC for ESA, reported that the subregional network was making good progress, but fundraising and engagement of the taskforce members of the ESAPP need improvement. Several attempts at fundraising did not deliver the hoped results. It is anticipated that the drafted charter of the ESAPP will help strengthen the subregional network. In a bid to raise the visibility of PROLINNOVA in ESA, the SRC engaged a designer to develop a brochure in consultation with the CPs. This will be finalised in 2019. The SRC had to invest extra time in working with PROLINNOVA–Ethiopia because of the organisational challenges faced by this CP and the installation of a new CP coordinator.

The draft charters for the subregional networks were drafted and presented at the African partners meeting.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The process of change within the network continued in 2018 working towards achieving the goals set out in the strategy for 2016–20. The two SRCs in Africa gained more confidence and took up many activities done previously by members of the international secretariat. They also rallied the CPs in their subregions to actively pursue the vision and mission of PROLINNOVA and to plan joint activities. This is a sign that “southernisation” of the network is indeed moving ahead. Although the CPs in Asia and Latin America do not have any funded projects to support the process of regionalisation, as do the CPs in Africa through the Proli-FaNS project, they are trying to collaborate more with each other and are seeking ways to strengthen the regional presence of PROLINNOVA. The international secretariat hosted by KIT became very lean with only two persons remaining – Chesha Wettasinha as a full staff member of KIT and Ann Waters-Bayer as a senior associate working on a voluntary basis.

As the network continues its journey, it will have to live up to its principles and remain creative within a fast-changing development sector, just like the local innovators it supports, in order to ensure that women and men engaged in small-scale farming are able to pursue ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management, to be food and nutrition secure, to support their families, and to lead full and decent lives and livelihoods.

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